

(Final)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this meeting. Let me assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation for the success of this meeting.

Bosnia and Herzegovina attaches high importance to the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament process and strongly support its values. We recognize that the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) has an essential role to play in strengthening global peace and security. The CTBT has made a strong contribution to the establishment of international norms in the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

However, we have to admit that, it is a source of legitimate concerns that twenty years after having been opened for signature the prospect of CTBT entry into force remain blurred.

The entry into force of the Treaty, within the broader framework of multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament efforts, is urgent.

In this context, I hope that this meeting will produce concrete outcome in demonstrating the determination of all those who are committed to endorse the entry into force of CTBT.

I would like to encourage all states to redouble diplomatic efforts to bring the CTBT into force.

Mr. Chairman

Before the CTBT is concluded in 1996, the world had conducted 2044 nuclear explosion in the atmosphere, underwater and underground. Since then an informal moratorium has been in effect and we have seen

dramatically reduced number of nuclear test explosion. Although the voluntary adherence to such a moratorium is of the highest importance, it does not have the same permanent and legally binding effect as the entry into force of the Treaty. Comprehensive prohibition of any nuclear weapons test explosion or any other nuclear explosion must be an obligation for all states and at any place in the world. By facilitating its entry into force and ensuring its effective implementation we will considerably strengthen the world's security and make the world a better place for us and our children.

In closing, let me assure you that Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue supporting the CTBT and remains engaged in the common efforts to promote further actions to facilitate its entry into force and nuclear non-proliferation process.

Thank you.